

**LAVENDER
SENIORS**
of the East Bay

Lavender Notes

A Project of the Tides Center

1395 Bancroft Avenue

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EQUALITY FOR ALL

VOW TO VOTE NO ON THE MARRIAGE BAN

By Equality for All

"Everyone's Doing It"

Even if you're not getting married, you still need to register. Not at Macy's. Not at Crate and Barrel. Not at Target

What I mean here is...register to vote.

You don't have to be getting married to let your voice be heard in November. Vote for freedom, equality, and fairness for all by voting **NO** on Proposition 8.

Voting **NO** is our chance to say, loud and clear, that our California constitution – the law of our land – guarantees the same freedoms and rights to everyone. No one should be singled out and treated differently.

What we're asking for is as American as apple pie- the simple, fundamental freedom to be treated equally.

Like freedom of religion and freedom of speech – the freedom to marry is fundamental to our society. No one can tell you where to worship or what books to read. Therefore, no one should be able to tell you who you can marry.

Marriage allows couples to express a lifetime commitment to each other, and gives spouses the clear responsibility for crucial medical decisions in an emergency. Why would anyone deny lesbian and gay couples that same security, dignity, and respect?

We're not alone. Civil rights groups, religious leaders and elected officials from throughout California and beyond are all opposing the initiative. Senator Barack Obama and Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger don't agree on much,

but they both oppose Proposition 8.

They've both come to the conclusion that it's wrong to single out one group of people and exclude them from enjoying the same rights as other couples.

You don't have to get married today, tomorrow, or ever. But you owe it to yourself - and to the community we share – to register and to vote for freedom, dignity, and equality – **REGISTER NOW** and then **VOTE NO** on Proposition 8.

If you are getting married and you want to register, you can do so at our website – it's a way to get involved in the campaign, have your friends get involved, and help raise money at the same time! So go to www.equalityforall.com

Win a Luxurious Weekend for 2 in SF!

Lavender Seniors is thrilled to announce its fall raffle. This is your chance to win a 2 night weekend stay with deluxe accommodations for 2 at the Galleria Park Hotel, a Joie de Vivre hotel in the heart of downtown San Francisco. Winners will also receive a \$750 allowance for dinner entertainment, and frivolous spending. Tickets are just \$10 and will be available at the Lavender Seniors' office, and all outreach events. To purchase tickets, mail in a check for the amount of raffle tickets you wish to purchase and we will mail you the tickets.

Checks should be made out to Lavender Seniors / The Tides Center and sent to, 1395 Bancroft Ave., San Leandro, CA 94577. The lucky winner will be announced at the November potluck on Saturday November 8, between noon and 2pm. Proceeds will benefit Lavender Seniors of the East Bay. Don't miss this opportunity to live it up in San Francisco! Please note that the deadline to purchase tickets by mail will be November 1.

Lavender Seniors of the East Bay is funded by individuals as well as Alameda County Area Agency on Aging, Alameda County Leather Corps, California Council for the Humanities, The California Endowment, City of Oakland, City of Fremont, Contra Costa County Area Agency on Aging, East Bay Community Foundation, Gay Chemists Support Fund, Horizons Foundation, Royal Grand Ducal Council/Alameda County, San Francisco Foundation, Bay Area Physicians/ Human Rights, and Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence. We gratefully acknowledge the support of all Friends of Lavender Seniors.

LavenderNotes

is the official newsletter of
Lavender Seniors of the East Bay.

Mission Statement

The mission of Lavender Seniors of the East Bay is to improve the quality of life of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender seniors through direct service, community outreach, advocacy, and

Advisory Board

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Next Advisory Board Meeting

Sep 10th - 7PM. Call 510-667-9655 for more information.
All are welcome; public comments take place at 7PM.

Staff

Dan Ashbrook, Director
Melissa Taylor, Outreach Coordinator
Tomi Smith, Project Administrator

Newsletter

Tomi Smith, Editor
D'Anne Bruetsch, Layout

Webmaster

Bert Hendriksen

Lavender Seniors welcomes all LGBT persons, their partners, allies, and guests. Cost of production and mail makes necessary a request of \$20 minimum annual donation to receive the newsletter. Visitors & others may receive the newsletter for three months without charge. No one is turned away for lack of funds. For gifts, make checks payable to Tides Center / Lavender Seniors.

Signed articles represent the opinion of the authors and not necessarily those of Lavender Seniors. Inclusion of a name in this newsletter does not necessarily indicate a person's sexual orientation or gender identity.

ARE YOU CONFINED TO YOUR HOME OR YOUR ROOM?

If you are or you know someone who is, let us know. We have Friendly Visitor volunteers who want to meet you!! Call Melissa, 510-667-9655

What We Do...

Founded in 1994, Lavender Seniors of the East Bay provides the following:

LGBT Seniors of Color: Improves access to health and human services to LGBT seniors in the African-American, Latino, Native American, Asian, and Pacific Islander communities.

Friendly Visitors Program: Matches volunteers with isolated and /or frail LGBT seniors for social support, light household and shopping assistance, and telephone assurance.

Cultural Competency Training: Through LGBT Senior panelists, educates service providers to comply with state laws to change policies and practices to make service more accessible to LGBT seniors.

Monthly Informative Social Gatherings: Help build informal social networks and individual's knowledge of issues affecting seniors at the Monthly Potluck in San Leandro, Lavender Lunch Bunch in Oakland, and South County Lunch and TalkAbout at the Fremont Senior Center.

Community Involvement: Engages in community building and partnering processes with local governments in order to insert LGBT elders' needs into their planning efforts.

Monthly Discussion Groups: Coming Out Again, Fellows of East Bay and Seniors Men's Afternoon co-sponsored and co-hosted by the North Berkeley Senior Center and Pacific Center (see back page for schedules) provide LGBT support group settings to elders in the North County.

Monthly newsletter: *Lavender Notes.*

Website: <http://www.lavenderseniors.org>

To get involved as a participant or volunteer, contact us at 510-667-9655, press 1, or go to: <http://www.lavenderseniors.org>

September Birthdays

Sept. 3 Sandra M.	Sept. 14 Maxine D	Sept. 21 David H.
Sept. 9 Rose W.	Sept. 16 Carol W..	Sept. 23 Mary E. A.
Sept. 11 Donna M. Rosalind B.	Sept. 17 Fred B.	Sept. 25 Jerry F.
Sept. 12 Pat K.	Sept. 18 David A.	Sept. 26 Burton W. Diane G
Sept. 13 Carol N. Irene E.	Sept. 19 Eugene R. Pam S.	Sept. 28 Marilyn A.
	Sept. 20 Windsor Y.	Sept. 29 Marilyn G.

Donate to Lavender Seniors online! Now you can go to www.lavenderseniors.org and click the **Donate Now link**. This is an easy way to make a difference in your community.

MONTHLY POTLUCK

Saturday, Sept. 13th - 12 noon to 2pm

Program: Mother Tongue Returns. See Page 5 for more information.

- A thru K bring a Salad
- L thru R bring a Dessert/Fruit
- S thru Z bring a Main Dish



Become a "Friend of Lavender Seniors" Today!

Lavender Seniors of the East Bay need your help! LGBT seniors are among the most overlooked and underserved population. Your donation provides general operating support for programs that help LGBT seniors live better lives by addressing issues of stigmas based on age and sexual orientation, limited biological families and social support, health disparities, insensitive health and human services providers, and economic insecurity exacerbated by ineligibility for spousal or survivor's benefits.

Please take a moment and send your gift today. Your annual giving entitles you to a subscription to our monthly newsletter, Lavender Notes.

Here's my gift of: \$20 \$35* \$50 \$100 \$250 \$1000 Other \$ _____

Annual Courtesy Giving Levels

- Lavender Leader \$10,000
- Lavender Supporter \$5,000
- Lavender Friend \$1,000

(* Please give this amount or more if possible.)

Enclosed is a check made payable to **Tides Center / Lavender Seniors**

Please charge my (circle one): AMEX Mastercard VISA

Card #: _____ Expires: _____/_____/_____ Signature: _____

Name: _____ Home Telephone: _____

Address: _____ E-mail Address: _____

City/State/ZIP: _____ @ _____

Referred by: _____

- Please contact me about including Lavender Seniors in my will.
- Please contact me about participating in Lavender Seniors' programs and or volunteering.
- Please do NOT list me in Lavender Seniors publications as a "Friend of Lavender Seniors."

Please mail to: Lavender Seniors of the East Bay, 1395 Bancroft Avenue, San Leandro, CA 94577

REMEMBER THAT YOUR DONATIONS TO LAVENDER SENIORS ARE TAX-DEDUCTIBLE

California Dreamin: Same-Sex Marriage

By Lisa Keen, Keen News Service
2008

(Excerpts)

Secretary of State Debra Bowen issued a statement saying that the Domestic Partners Registry had received more than 50 calls a day since May 15, when the California Supreme Court issued its ruling.

"The most common question," said Bowen, "is, 'how does the court's ruling affect my registered domestic partnership?' The answer is, not at all."

"The California Family Code is very clear about the requirements for forming a domestic partnership, as well as how and when a partnership may or must be dissolved. As long as a couple meets the legal criteria for a domestic partnership, it can remain on California's Domestic Partnership Registry. If same-sex couples choose to marry, I would suggest that they maintain their partnership registration because most other states do not recognize same-sex marriages, but many do recognize domestic partnerships."

Since 2000, 48,809 couples had registered as domestic partners in the state; but the Secretary of State's office said it did not have any data on how many of those were same-sex and how many heterosexual.

Jennifer Pizer, senior counsel with Lambda Legal's western office, said her organization recommends couples who decide to marry in California also consider obtaining (or keeping) a domestic-partnership registration.

"The issue is not significant differences between the rights conferred by marriage and by registered domestic partnership," said Pizer. It's because "other states vary about what state-law statutes they respect." For instance, said Pizer, New York and Massachusetts will respect a same-sex couple's marriage license from California, but Oregon and Washington State respect only the domestic partnerships.

WISDOM

'Life is too short to wake up in the morning with ...regrets,
...so love the people who treat you right,
.....forget about the ones who don't,
.....believe that everything happens for a
.....reason.

If you get a chance, take it.
If it changes your life, let it.
Nobody said life would be easy,
...they just promised it would be worth it.

- Unknown

Supportive Clergy/Volunteers Needed

Kerry Chaplin of CA Faith for Equality is looking for names of supportive clergy and super volunteer people of faith who might be called upon as spokesmen and contacts for media. She is especially interested in including people of color and people who speak languages other than English. Please let me know who from the faith community has been helpful to you so I can pass this information to Kerry.

We need the following information: name, location, religious denomination, language spoken (other than English) and how they can be contacted. We will have separate lists for clergy and lay super volunteers, so please identify your contacts accordingly. Also, it would be very helpful if you would get their permission to be included on the list.

Thanks!

Stephanie Stolte
stoltelli@earthlink.net

Doreen Brand and Beverly Hickok Wedding.



Doreen and Beverly, two of the original co-founders of Lavender Seniors, were married on June 18, 2008 at 10:30am at the county clerk's office in Martinez, CA., after 18 years as life partners.

Both now in their 80s, had such great joy to finally be able to be legally married! Doreen is a mother, grandmother, artist and retired public school teacher. Beverly retired from 33 years as a head librarian at the University of California at Berkeley and is a published author. During the war years, Beverly worked as a riveter as well as serving our country as a member of the Navy Waves. Both women have been active in many gay rights organizations, and just returned from a fabulous national convention of OLOC, (Old Lesbians Organizing for Change), in Los Angeles. They plan to honeymoon on an upcoming Olivia cruise.

Part 2-Adolescent boys by Thomas Little

Authors note: After much arguing the 14 adolescent boys agree to marry. They devise their own ceremony and proceed:

Frank glanced up to the head of the line of matrimony. Everything was ready. He winked at Darrell who smiled to himself and pulled out the text of the marriage ceremony which was scribbled in a small notebook. He aligned each couple up behind each other before the cabin door. There were six couples, except for Jamie and Roger who stood aside watching the event together.....Darrell had the first couple step forward. They had been told what to do. Darrell sailed right down the line. At the end of the ceremony they merely shook hands as the three couples had done before them. But Frank was determined that it wasn't going to be that way for himself and Curt. Finally it was time for Frank and Curt. So for the fifth time Darrell repeated the wedding vows that had been made up to the best of everyone's memory. The entire ceremony ...went as follows. Darrell began by reading: "Dearly beloved we are here in the sight of God and in the presence of these people to join together this guy and this other fella... (They were not at all skilled in the proper usage of words for such a formal occasion), in holy matrimony, which is an honorable thing. It is not to be entered into unwisely, but reverently. Into this holy deal these two persons come now to be joined...I say to you both and hold you responsible, as you stand in the presence of God to don't forget that love and loyalty alone will be what makes a happy home. No other words or vows are more sacred than those you now take. If these vows are always obeyed and you always do the will of God your life will be full of joy and your home that you make will always be in peace.

The turning to Frank: Frank will you have this man to be your wedded husband, to live together in the holy estate of matrimony? Will you love him, comfort him, honor and keep him, in sickness and in health? And forsaking all others, stick only to him, as long as he lives? "I do," answered Frank firmly. Then the same was asked of Curt who answered as firmly as Frank did, with "I do."

Then Darrell put his hand on their two hands and he said, "Since Frank and Curt have consented together in holy wedlock, I pronounce that they are husband and husband in the name of the father, and of the son and of the Holy Spirit. To those whom God has joined together let no godless enemy of homosexuality put asunder. Amen.

Frank turned to Curt and they both kissed each other. The ceremony was over!

Now they were all married men! Married to each other! Immediately they started out in different directions on their honeymoons. They had agreed to return as soon as it was dark. That was their honeymoon!-Thomas Little (Frank Howell)

Mother Tongue Returns to Lavender Potluck

Mother Tongue has appeared before Lavender Seniors in the past on more than one occasion. The group is led this time by Jan Covnillon. This lively group of hip women specializes in staging satirical skits and monologues. This time the act will be centered on Disabled Women. Be sure to join us for the fun and enlightenment on Saturday, September 13th at 1:00pm at the San Leandro Community Church. -Frank Howell

New Leaf Outreach to Elders is hosting **Depth & Distance II an LGBT Art Exhibit** for seniors 55 (by December 31, 2008) and older to open October 4th, 2008 at the LGBT Center 1800 Market in San Francisco. Entry forms can be down loaded online at www.newleafservices.org. You may also obtain a copy by mailing an SASE with 58¢ stamp or pick one up at the LGBT Center, 1800 Market, or other art, photo or frame shops in San Francisco. Deadline for entry is August 15th. For more information call Jan at 415-626-7000 x409. We would like to have at least a 50% lesbian representation. This is a continuation of Depth & Distance, a lesbian exhibition presented by **LVA:Lesbians in the Visual Arts & New leaf Outreach to Elders**, which was exhibited about 4 years ago to wide acclaim.

Jan Couvillon New Leaf
Activities Manager
New Leaf Outreach to Elders
1390 Market Street, Suite 800
415-626-7000 x409
jcouvillon@newleafservices.org

Quotes of the Month

"Coming together is a beginning.
Keeping together is progress.
Working together is success."

- Henry Ford

"One must marry one's feelings to one's beliefs and ideas. That is probably the only way to achieve a measure of harmony in one's life."

- Napoleon Hill

"First they ignore you,
...then they laugh at you,
... then they fight you,
... then you win."

- Mahatma Gandhi

Sep Book Review

The Eye of the Storm: Swept To the Center by God

By Gene Robinson
Seabury Books,

Perhaps no moral dilemma has gripped the psyche of religious denominations more decisively than the issue of gay ministers and bishops. But none of the controversies has gripped public attention more than the case of Bishop Gene Robinson, of the Episcopal Church. Several of the church congregations have threatened to depart for greener theological pastures. But these churches number only about 100 of the American churches. The major portion of the fierce opposition is found in the non-western Episcopal Churches.

In 2003 Robinson became bishop of New Hampshire. The bitter opposition refuses to die down. Even the issue of women priests still boils underneath.

Robinson raises three basic tenants for judging the morality of sex: Equality, authenticity, and appropriate vulnerability. Robinson observes that, "When I can express with my body what

I'm feeling with my heart, the integration of body and soul is astounding."

AIDS presents a classic instance of neglect by the church in dealing with minority groups. The churches refuse to reach out to the fallen stranger by the side of the road. Robinson contrasts this behavior with Legionnaires Disease when the public outpouring of sympathy was monumental.

Bishop Robinson seeks to promote dialogue and avoid the establishment of a theocracy by the right wing.

As these words are being written, the bishops is attending the worldwide Lambeth Conference of Episcopal Bishops in England, which is held once every ten years. Robinson has been refused admission to the conference but he is still making his powerful presence known. The group refuses to engage in any dialogue with him. Robinson compares his situation to past times in American history. "It's not unlike a field slave, soon after the Emancipation Proclamation, being invited up to the Big House, but told he can still only be there as a slave, not as a guest at the host's table."

The battle over gays in the church will not be settled any time soon, but Bishop Robinson will continue to serve as a thorn in the side of the Christian establishment. His new book, which features a forward by Archbishop Desmond Tutu, will keep us on our toes.-Frank Howell

Don't forget to buy your raffle tickets!!!!

African American Lesbians 40+

Monthly meetings for social activities, potluck, card & board games, theatre outings and sports events.

For more Information
email tsmith3565@comcast.net



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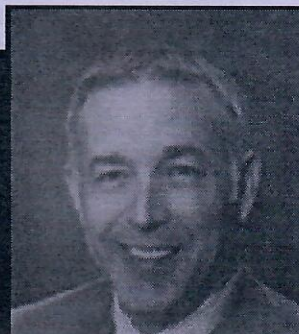
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September 2008

Schedule of Events

Sept. 8th - 1:00 to 3:00 PM – Coming Out Again Group – (2nd Mon.) 1901 Hearst Ave. Berkeley, in the library. Co-sponsored by Lavender Seniors and North Berkeley Senior Center

Sept. 10th - 7:00 to 8:30PM – Lavender Seniors Board Meeting – (Wed. before Potluck) 1395 Bancroft Ave., San Leandro.

Sept. 11th and Sept. 25th - 1:30 to 3:30PM Seniors Men's Afternoon. (2nd & 4th Thurs) 2712 Telegraph Ave. Berkeley at the Pacific Center Co-Sponsor: Pacific Center 510-548-8283

Sept. 13th – 12:00 to 2:00 PM – Lavender Potluck - (2nd Sat.) 1395 Bancroft Ave, San Leandro - Program: Mother Tongue

Sept. 14th – 5:30 to 6:30 PM – Fellows of the East Bay – (2nd Sun.) 1288 9th Street, Berkeley. Please bring \$4.00 (Donation) Door Charge, Plus Food, Dessert or Drink to Share. Social Hour 5:30, Dinner 6:30.

Sept. 19th - 12:30 to 2:30 PM - Lavender Lunch Bunch, (3rd Fri.) North Oakland Senior Center, 5714 MLK Jr. Way. (58th St.) Oakland. Sponsored by City of Oakland Aging and Adult Services. Program: Stagebridge

Sept. 26th – 12:00 – 2:00PM – South County Lunch Bunch and Talk About, 40086 Paseo Padre Pkwy, Fremont. (4th Fri.) Program: Kimberly Greer-Taking Charge of Your Health. **FREE LUNCH** for LGBT Residents. Sponsor: City of Fremont, Human Services Dept. For more info. Contact Ina Mae Murri 510-490-5425.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Labor Day	2	3	4	5	6
7	8 Coming Out	9	10 Brd Mtg	11 Sr Mens	12	13 Pot Luck
14 Fellows	15	16	17	18	19 Lunch Bunch	20
21	22	23	24	25 Sr Mens	26 So County	27
28	29	30				

ADVERTISING RATES* FOR LAVENDER NOTES

Ad Size	1 month	3 months	6 months	1 year
Classified Ad	\$2 per line (per month) on a 3-column page			
Business Card	\$30	\$75	\$140	\$250
Quarter Page	\$50	\$125	\$225	\$400
Half Page	\$90	\$220	\$400	\$750
Full Page	\$200	\$450	\$800	\$1400

* Individuals and non-profit organizations who have made an annual contribution of \$25 or more are entitled to discounts of 40% on classified ads and 20% on ads of other sizes. Lavender Seniors reserves the right to accept or reject any ad submitted.

* A one-page insert to Lavender Notes for one month may be purchased for the fee of: Non-Profits, \$250; For-Profits, \$500; ½ half page inserts are the same amount. Must be received by 10th of preceding month.